



# Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot

## *Middlesex Community College, Middletown, CT*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected Middlesex Community College for a Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilot. Middlesex Community College's assessment pilot partners are the City of Middletown and Town of Haddam. The Job Training Pilot will focus on the City of Middletown's state Enterprise Zone and the Connecticut River valley area between Middletown and Haddam. The City of Middletown (population 43,000) is located on the Connecticut River 20 miles north of New Haven. The City of Middletown's state Enterprise Zone is centered on its North End community, which is economically depressed and primarily minority. The North End community's poverty rate is significantly higher than the county-wide average. The Town of Haddam (population 7,200) is a rural town located in the lower Connecticut River Valley five miles north of New Haven. The Town lost half of its tax base and almost 30 percent of its population when the state decommissioned the Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Plant in 1996.

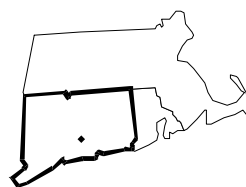
Historically, the Connecticut River served as a transportation corridor, with Middletown functioning

### PILOT SNAPSHOT

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2000

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot will train 30-40 participants as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from unemployed or under-employed residents in the City of Middletown and Town of Haddam. The Pilot will be an integral part of local efforts to revitalize the area's greatest natural resource, the Connecticut River valley.



*Middletown,  
Connecticut*

#### Contacts:

Middlesex Community College    Regional Brownfields Team  
(860) 343-5880    U.S. EPA - Region 1  
(617) 918-1209

Visit the EPA Region 1 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/remed/brnflld/>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

as a major seaport. Neglect, pollution from upstream factories, and erosion of stream banks have caused significant deterioration of this resource. Use of the river and access to the waterfront are limited due to the construction of roads and railways. Efforts to improve the quality of life and spur economic development along the river have been hampered by a lack of usable space and the potential for contamination on the many brownfields along the river. Cities and towns along the Connecticut River are now trying to revitalize this natural resource through redevelopment of brownfield sites. The assessment pilots in Middletown and Haddam currently are assessing a number of properties in the river valley. Trained environmental technicians are needed to support continued revitalization efforts.

## TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Middlesex Community College plans to train 30-40 participants, achieve a 60-80 percent placement rate, and support career placement of graduates for one year after the training is completed. Participants will be recruited from unemployed and under-employed residents in the greater Middletown and Connecticut River valley areas. The Pilot training program will consist of 30 weeks of courses on the handling and removal of hazardous substances, sampling, asbestos and lead awareness, forklift operation, and OSHA health and safety regulation and skills, including training in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies. This program is designed to be the lowest level of a tiered training and educational program designed by the college specifically to address brownfields.

Middlesex Community College's training efforts will be supported by organizations such as the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, Middlesex County Soil and Conservation District, North End Action Team, and Marin Environmental. The community college will offer day and evening sessions, as necessary. Certifications will be offered in environmental remediation, lead and asbestos abatement, 40-hour OSHA health and safety, hazardous materials first responder, and hazardous materials technician. Mentors will be provided for all participants.

## ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting outreach to recruit unemployed and under-employed residents in the greater Middletown and Connecticut River valley areas;
- Conducting brownfields technician training, including courses in the use of innovative assessment and cleanup technologies; and
- Supporting career placement of students for one year after the job training is completed.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*